

Examiner's Amendment

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

This application has been amended as follows:

(1) In claims 1 and 2, line 8, "side surfaces of the cutting blade" has been changed to --two parallel side surfaces of the cutting blade for cutting into the covering layer of the optical fiber, wherein the two parallel side surfaces extend from the edge surface to an opposing edge surface that is spaced from the edge surface--.

(2) In claims 7 and 8, line 6, "side surfaces of the cutting blades" has been changed to --two corresponding parallel side surfaces of the cutting blade for cutting into the covering layer of the optical fiber, wherein the two parallel side surfaces extend from the edge surface to an opposing edge surface that is spaced from the edge surface--.

(3) In claim 11, line 6, "side surfaces of the cutting blade" has been changed to --two parallel side surfaces of the cutting blade for cutting into the covering layer of the optical fiber, wherein the two parallel side surfaces extend from the edge surface to an opposing edge surface that is spaced from the edge surface--.

(4) In claim 15, line 1, "(Withdrawn)" has been changed to --(Previously Presented)--.

(5) In claim 15, line 7, "side surfaces of the cutting blade" has been changed to --two parallel side surfaces of the cutting blade for cutting into the covering layer of the optical fiber, wherein the two parallel side surfaces extend from the edge surface to an opposing edge surface that is spaced from the edge surface--.

(6) In claim 15, line 8, "an" has been changed to --the--.

(7) In claim 15, line 11, "a" (second occurrence) has been changed to --the--.

(8) In claim 15, line 11, "an" has been changed to --the--.

(9) In claim 15, line 12 has been rewritten as follows:

--fiber;

applying pressure to the cutting blade so that the edge surface engages the covering layer; and

moving the cutting blade in a direction along a longitudinal axis of the optical fiber so that the edge surface strips the covering layer of the optical fiber--.

2. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Jeffrey S. Melcher on March 14, 1008.

Point of Contact

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hwei-Siu C. Payer whose telephone number is 571-272-4511. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday, 7:00 am to 4:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Boyer Ashley can be reached on 571-272-4502. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 571-273-8300 for official communications and 571-273-4511 for proposed amendments.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

H Payer
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/Hwei-Siu C. Payer/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3724